

In the Claims:

Cancel Claims 1-27 without prejudice.

Add the following new claims:

28. (New) An absorbent article adapted to fit about a waist of a wearer, including a rear waist of the wearer, the absorbent article having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the absorbent article further comprising:

front and rear waist sections with at least a first portion of the rear waist section formed of a stretchable material,

an intermediate section which includes an absorbent portion and which intermediate section interconnects the front and rear waist sections, and

a gasketing assembly including at least one gasket element having a face portion deployable toward the rear waist of the wearer, the gasketing assembly further including at least one thrust portion effective to deploy the gasket element face portion toward the rear waist of the wearer, the gasketing assembly operatively joined with the stretchable material of the first portion of the rear waist section to mechanically deploy the at least one gasket element upon tensioning of the stretchable material to fill a volume occurring between the rear waist section of the absorbent article and the rear waist of the wearer, the at least one gasket element configured upon deployment to inhibit a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a body faceable surface of the absorbent article.

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1 29. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 having a longitudinal
2 centerline wherein the at least one gasket element is centered about the longitudinal
3 centerline.

1 30. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein, upon
2 deployment of the at least one gasket element, the gasket element face portion deploys
3 adjacent the rear waist of the wearer.

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1 31. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the at least
2 one thrust portion comprises a compression resistant member.

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1 32. (New) The absorbent article of claim 31 wherein the
2 compression resistant member is encased within a soft covering.

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1 33. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 comprising at least a
2 pair of opposed thrust portions effective to deploy the gasket element face portion
3 toward the rear waist of the wearer.

1 34. (New) The absorbent article of claim 33 wherein each of the
2 pair of opposed thrust portions comprises a compression resistant member.

1 35. (New) The absorbent article of claim 34 wherein the
2 **compression resistant member of each of the pair of opposed thrust portions is**
3 **encased within a soft covering.**

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1 36. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein a first
2 longitudinal edge of the at least one gasket element is joined at the rear waist section
3 of the absorbent article to form a closed rear waist end portion.

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1 37. (New) The absorbent article of claim 36 wherein the gasketing
2 assembly is effective to form a containment volume effective to contain human
3 discharge therewithin.

1 38. (New) The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein the gasketing
2 assembly is effective to contain human discharge spaced apart from contact with a
3 body of the wearer.

1 39. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the gasketing
2 assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

1 40. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 additionally
2 comprising a bodyside liner deployable by action of the gasketing assembly toward
3 the rear waist of the wearer.

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2 41. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein the gasketing
assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

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1 42. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the at least
2 one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and wherein the
3 gasketing assembly comprises a pair of thrust portions each having a first terminal end
4 connected to a face of the bodyside liner.

1 43. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the at least
2 one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and the gasketing
3 assembly comprises a pair of leg members, each leg member having first and second
4 terminal ends with the first terminal end of each leg member connected to a face of
5 the bodyside liner and the second terminal end of each leg member connected to the
6 first portion of the rear waist section formed of a stretchable material.

1 44. (New) The absorbent article of claim 43 wherein the gasketing
2 assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

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647 45. (New) In a disposable absorbent article which defines a
2 longitudinal direction with a longitudinal centerline and a lateral direction and which
3 absorbent article includes a stretchable waist material adapted to fit about a waist of
4 a wearer, the wearer having a rear waist and a lower back, the improvement
5 comprising:

6 a gasketing assembly including at least one gasket element, the
7 gasketing assembly operatively joined with the stretchable waist material about the
8 longitudinal centerline of the absorbent article to deploy the at least one gasket
9 element against the lower back of the wearer when the stretchable waist material is
10 in a stretched conditioned to fill a volume occurring between the waist section of the
11 absorbent article and the rear waist of the wearer and to form a containment volume,
12 the deployed at least one gasket element being effective to inhibit flow of matter
13 between the rear waist of the wearer and the waist material of the absorbent article.

1 sub C 17 46. (New) The disposable absorbent article of claim 45 wherein
2 the at least one gasket element comprises a face portion and at least a pair of opposed
3 thrust portions effective to deploy the face portion toward the waist of the wearer.

1 47. (New) The disposable absorbent article of claim 46 wherein
2 at least one of the at least a pair of opposed thrust portions comprises a compression
3 resistant member.

1 ^{Sub} 48. (New) The disposable absorbent article of claim 45 wherein
2 the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

1 49. (New) The disposable absorbent article of claim 45
2 additionally comprising a bodyside liner deployable by action of the gasketing
3 assembly toward the waist of the wearer.

1 50. (New) The absorbent article of claim 49 wherein the gasketing
2 assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

1 51. (New) The absorbent article of claim 45 wherein the at least
2 one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and wherein the
3 gasketing assembly comprises a pair of thrust portions each having a first terminal end
4 connected to a face of the bodyside liner.

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1 52. (New) The absorbent article of claim 45 wherein the at least
2 one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and the gasketing
3 assembly comprises a pair of leg members, each leg member having first and second
4 terminal ends with the first terminal end of each leg member connected to a face of
5 the bodyside liner and the second terminal end of each leg member connected to the
6 first portion of the rear waist section formed of a stretchable material.

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1 53. (New) The absorbent article of claim 52 wherein the gasketing
2 assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

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1 54. (New) In an absorbent article adapted to fit about a waist of a
2 wearer, including a rear waist of the wearer, the absorbent article having a
3 longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and which absorbent article includes a
4 front waist section, a stretchable rear waist section, and an intermediate section which
5 interconnects the front and rear waist sections and which intermediate section includes
6 an absorbent portion, a method comprising:
7 tensioning the stretchable rear waist section to deploy a gasket element
8 to fill a volume occurring between the rear waist section of the absorbent article and
9 the rear waist of the wearer and thereby inhibit a longitudinal flow of human
10 discharge along a body faceable surface of the absorbent article.

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1 55. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the absorbent article
2 has a longitudinal centerline and wherein the gasket element is centered about the
3 longitudinal centerline.

1 56. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the gasket element
2 includes a face portion and at least one thrust portion wherein upon tensioning the
3 stretchable rear waist section the face portion is deployed toward the waist of the
4 wearer.

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1 57. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein upon deployment of
2 the gasket element, a containment volume effective to contain human discharge
3 therewithin and spaced apart from contact with a body of the wearer is formed.

1 58. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the absorbent article
2 also includes a bodyside liner wherein deployment of the gasket element directs the
3 bodyside liner toward the waist of the wearer.